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undissolved zinc are likely to be commingled with the granular copper, and not to be separable therefrom; if the solution be kept in contact with the deposited copper until the analyst is assured that the zinc is all dissolved, part of the copper is sure to go into solution.

For these reasons, one of the worst processes for rapid copper determination is the production of metallic copper by means of reduction by zinc. A modification, or rather a suite, to this process is that by Steinbeck, which, with another, took the prize offered by the Mansfield Copper Works.

It consists in dissolving the copper precipitated by zinc in nitric acid, and titring with cyanide of potassium.

For practical purposes, and whenever a battery is to be had, the electrolytic method seems more rapid and exact.

To recapitulate:—

	1st.	2d.
Insoluble residue	79.73	78.11
Iron sesquioxide	over 5 p. c.	

Metallic copper (Rose's), 2.55; (Pfaf's), 2.40; (Luckow's), 2.65.

Contamination of Drinking Water.—In connection with the contamination of potable water and the manner in which such contamination may manifest itself, Prof. **Persifor Frazer**, Jr., presented the following partial examination of the well-water used at the parsonage of St. James the Less. The priest of this church, Rev. Robert Ritchie, having noticed that the water from the well was at times fetid and nauseating, brought about three gallons for inspection. The water was collected, according to advice, in a demijohn previously well washed out with the same water. It was collected early in the morning of a day in April, 1874. It was fairly clear. Upon examination it yielded:—

	Grammes per litre.	Grains per gallon.
Mechanically suspended matter . . .	0.006	0.42
Precipitate after evaporation to one-third of its original volume	0.062	4.34
Total dissolved matter dried at 120° Cent., 11.344 grammes[1]	0.997	69.93
Volatilized at a red heat	0.024	1.68

The water emitted an offensive odor after standing in a warm place twenty-four hours. It assumed a yellow tint and gave an acid reaction when reduced by evaporation to one-half its volume, shortly after which a bulky yellow precipitate was thrown down. When reduced to 30 or 40 c.c. bunches of acicular white crystals began to be deposited. On ignition, an intensely foul odor was given off. Residue chiefly iron sesquioxide.

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[1] The determination of the total dissolved matter here given must be regarded as somewhat in excess of the amount actually present in the water.

The well is situated about one hundred yards from the graveyard of the church, and between it and the river. Between the burial-ground and the river the ground slopes gradually. Since the fall of 1874, the water has been purer, but many cases of diphtheria have occurred at various times in the rectory.

Dr. LEIDY remarked that his attention had been repeatedly directed to an impurity in our drinking-water differing from that usually mentioned. It often conspicuously appeared in the otherwise clear water when first drawn from the hydrant into a white basin or a tumbler, as diffused brownish or yellowish flakes. Though comparatively light, they soon settle to the bottom of the vessel. When first noticed he supposed that they were fragments of decaying woody fibres. On microscopic examination, he thought that he had recognized them to be largely composed of the castings of worms mingled with remains of confervæ and animalcules. The source of these he suspected to be the soft mud at the bottom of our reservoirs. This mud rapidly accumulates in the latter from the sediment of the Schuylkill water, and is a favorable nidus for the development of worms, various animalcules, and the growth of algous plants. He had often observed such mud colored bright red from the multitude of worms partially buried in it with the tail ends protruded and vibrating. The mucus secretions of the worms mingled with mud particles form tubes, and it is these which he thought he had recognized as forming most of the flakes in the drinking-water. The more frequent cleansing of the reservoirs from the accumulating sedimentary mud, Dr. L. thought, would promote the purity and healthfulness of the water.

On Eozoon.—Dr. LEIDY directed attention to the large and characteristic specimen of *Eozoon Canadense*, presented this evening by the Geological Survey of Canada.

For the information of those not familiar with the object, Dr. L. stated that it was regarded by many of the best zoologists as of animal origin, and as such had excited much interest from its being the oldest known fossil. It was found in the Laurentian rocks of Canada, and is considered to be the remains of a coral-like Rhizopod. Dr. L. was himself not fully convinced of its animal nature.

On the Diaphragm.—Dr. LEIDY remarked that the elevation of the dome of the human diaphragm was usually as high as the fifth rib, but that in the subject, used during his present anatomical course at the University, a well-formed muscular male, the diaphragm on the right side was elevated to a level with the anterior extremity of the third rib.